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1918

A Month with Our National Missionaries

Scripture
Daily Message
Prayer

For Use in Family
or
Individual Devotions

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

1. In Family Worship. The Scripture selection, missionary story and prayer make it ideal for this purpose.
2. In Individual Devotions. It will prove informing and inspiring.
3. In Worship Services in the Sunday school and Young People's societies. With some adaptation the material will be found designed for effective use.
4. For Children's Sermons. The missionary material contains many usable stories and illustrations.
5. In Women's Missionary Societies. The stories provide graphic material illustrating various fields of work.

NATIONAL MISSIONS

"He does most to Christianize the world and to hasten the coming of the Kingdom of God," says Josiah Strong, "who does most to make thoroughly Christian the United States."

JUST as education is the response of the school to the intellectual needs of the Nation; trade the response of the market to the commercial needs of the Nation; legislation the response of the State to the political needs of the Nation; law the response of the Court to the legal needs of the Nation; so National Missions is the response of the Church to the spiritual needs of the Nation. A nation may exist without religion, but it cannot live without it. Religion is the most efficient of all factors in human history because it furnishes at once essential ideas, inspires great motives, controls social conditions and creates great men.

We are face to face today in America with what may truly be called "the supreme moment in our history." It is the people who rule now, and unless God lives in and rules through the people, the end of our struggles, the goal of all our boast of progress will be chaos, and chaos is death. No nation ever needed more than ours the high inspiration and guidance of a compelling religious faith. For such a faith the nation has a right to look to the Church.

National Missions is the response of our Church to the command of Jesus Christ to give the Gospel of Christ in all its fulness and His service in all of its implications to every man, woman and child, regardless of creed, color or condition, in the United States, Alaska, Cuba, Porto Rico and Santo Domingo. Nothing less than a thoroughgoing Christianization of America will satisfy the command of Christ and meet the challenge of the Nation to the Church.

JOHN MCDOWELL.

FIRST DAY: *Luke 4: 16-21.*

S. HALL YOUNG had come back from Alaska with a single purpose. In the "land of the totem" he had witnessed a process of slow decay. But he had found the root of the evil and was determined it should be removed.

"I must have money for a saw-mill," he announced.

"We sent you to Alaska to preach the Gospel, not to build saw-mills," was the answer of the Board of Home Missions.

"You sent me to Alaska to build there a Christian commonwealth," replied the missionary. "And the foundation of a Christian commonwealth is the Christian home."

"In Alaska, community dwellings house the native Indians. Three, four, or five families share the protection of the same roof. Privacy is impossible. Drink works havoc. In times of carousal immorality cannot but prevail."

"Only in individual homes can a Christian family develop. But a home means a house; and a house means lumber. Now can you see how a saw-mill must preach the Gospel in Alaska?"

The Board did see, and the money was voted.

A saved soul, in a saved body, living in a saved community, has always been, and is today the primary objective of all National Missions work.

PRAYER: *Our Father in Heaven, we thank Thee for the faith and faithfulness of Thy servant, S. Hall Young, and for all that came from his life and service to lift and elevate the benighted and needy people of Alaska. We rejoice that he found the Gospel of Christ a Gospel not only that saved the soul but also the family and the community. We ask that we may so incarnate the Gospel in our lives that men and women and children everywhere shall find it easy to believe. For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.*

SECOND DAY: *Mark 5: 18-20.*

THAT Mexican worked with pick and shovel on the railroad tracks. When he came home at night, he would sit in his sweaty clothes and revile his wife for being an "evangelica." And in the little chapel she used to pray with choking voice that God would touch his heart.

God heard that prayer. Shortly after the man was converted, the family moved from California to Arizona. Some weeks later came a letter from the new convert. He was going from house to house, telling the good news of his Lord. Already a group of forty Mexicans were reading the Bible. They wanted a missionary who could guide them in the new Way. But there were no funds to send him.

Instead the Mexican minister from Bisbee went over to hold a week's services. The Mexicans crowded the little chapel, and stood up around the door and windows. When the invitation was extended, to "all those who desired to follow the Lord Jesus and accept Him as their only Saviour," more than eighty responded.

Now special prayer and the gifts of friends have made possible at Ajo a resident pastor. The hungry there will be gladdened and strengthened by the Bread of Life.

PRAYER: *For the redeeming power of Thy love, O God, and the privilege of bearing our testimony to it, we give Thee thanks. We rejoice that Thy love is stronger than our sin; that it does not change when we change, or fail when we fail; that it is the same yesterday, today and forever. Grant that we may be channels through which Thy love may find its way into the hearts and homes of those in our land who know not its transforming power. In Christ's name we ask it. Amen.*

THIRD DAY: *Mark 6: 34-44.*

NOT many men are to be found who would do this sort of thing and it needs to be done. I think at bottom that is what has kept me in this place." So writes the Rev. Paul Doran from his parish among the mountains of middle Tennessee.

What "sort of thing" is he doing? Let us take out a few sentences from his annual report.

1. "Arrangements were made for sixty young people to go away to school, most of whom had to have aid in order to go."
2. "Through the aid of my brother, one of my young men who had been a tenant farmer was furnished the money with which to buy a farm. . . . This makes eight young men whom I have enabled to become home owners. . . . All are officers in my church but one."
3. "In the way of county service, I had part in taking a census of the available cows in the country, with a view to establishing at Sparta a creamery and cheese factory."
4. "There were twenty-seven additions to my churches during the year."

Can you see the Kingdom coming in those Tennessee mountains?

PRAYER: *O God of love, Who has given us a new commandment, through Thine only begotten Son, that we should love one another, even as Thou hast loved us, grant that we may find our deepest joy in obeying this new commandment. May it be the motive of all our life and the inspiration of all our service. May we not only be our brother's keeper, but our brother's brother; sharing with him all of our blessings and privileges. For Jesus' sake. Amen.*

FOURTH DAY: *John 4: 9-14.*

WHEN the youth of America were called away to France, the first son of Arizona to fall on foreign soil was a Pima Indian. At the same time his white-haired mother saw her tiny wheat-patch wither and burn under the scorching sun of an Arizona summer. The white man had taken the water of the Pimas.

Years before Charles H. Cook had brought them the Gospel. The tribe became Christian but it remained poor. For thirty-five years the crops failed. Nine out of ten children at school were under-weight.

Then came Dirk Lay. He blazed with indignation at the spectacle of a whole tribe condemned to slow starvation. Heroic measures were necessary. It was a time to "expect great things from God," to "attempt great things for God."

At Washington this missionary energized and directed one of the greatest Christian lobbies ever arrayed in support of much-needed legislation. Months went by, but at last the bill was passed, appropriating $5,500,000 for the Coolidge Dam. Several months later Dirk Lay stood by the President when he signed it. There would be water for the Pimas—that meant food and more abundant life. The missionary had brought his "cup of cold water" and it was running over with blessings.

PRAYER: *We rejoice, O Christ, that Thou art the Living Water that satisfies every thirst of the soul and becomes in us a well of water springing up into everlasting life. Save us from ever thinking of this water of life as a gift merely for our own satisfaction. May we always think of it as a gift to be shared with all men and women and children who thirst for Thee, O God. Forbid that we, through indifference or selfishness, should withhold this Living Water from any of Thy children. For Thy name's sake we ask it. Amen.*

FIFTH DAY: *Phil. 4: 8-13.*

WYOMING from the train appears an unbroken stretch of sage-brush and greasewood. But in the valley of the North Platte, irrigation spots the fields with green; alfalfa and timothy push up sturdily.

Yet closer acquaintance reveals that nearly every farm is heavily mortgaged: banks have failed; many a rancher is facing foreclosure and the loss of ten years of labor.

What message has the Church for such discouraged pioneers? Is it, too, on the brink of failure?

"I am one of the few people in this country," remarks the Rev. Harry Bicksler, Presbyterian pastor, "who is not discouraged. Our work is prospering. I wish I could report as good a financial condition of our people as I can a spiritual. A farm finance association will help, we hope, to get loans and thus keep off those foreclosures. We have also added two small industries, the pottery kiln and the loom. Both are helping."

"Oh, I love the place and the people," the pastor continues. "Last year we received more than fifty on profession of faith. In a few years the people here are going to win their way back to prosperity. As they do I want to have here a strong work for Christ and His Kingdom."

PRAYER: *We bless Thee, O God, our Father, for the unconquerable power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and for the men and women in our mission fields, who, in the midst of heartbreaking trials, and disappointments, and losses, demonstrate that they can do all things through Christ who strengthens them. O God, create in us a deep longing to do all we can and give all we can to cheer the hearts and sustain the hands of those who stand in these hard and lonely places—and to Thy name shall be all the praise. Amen.*

SIXTH DAY: *Gal. 3: 26-29.*

ITS beginnings in 1910 were an old run-down church at the corner of 14th Street and Second Avenue in New York City, at the very heart of the "melting pot." Charles Stelzle wanted to hold church services "workingmen would like to attend." He wanted a church which would seek and serve the worker.

And such is the continued purpose of the new and dignified Labor Temple of today, which rises six stories above the garishness of Second Avenue. Its purpose is the same—but its service has branched up and out like a strong and noble tree.

Eager immigrants apply at its employment bureau for a first try at American labor. Men and women nightly attend the Labor Temple School, whose director for many years was Will Durant. Friendly contacts are maintained and strengthened with the leaders of organized labor. Children learn to work and play intelligently. And through and around it all, people feel the enveloping spirit of Christ. For the church is at the heart of Labor Temple. Its pastor, who is the director, when recently asked the future policy of its ministration, answered simply: "To go on—doing *more* of the same thing."

PRAYER: *O God, our Heavenly Father, we Thy children, from the ends of the earth, speaking in many languages, embodying many traditions, and having many needs, come now to Thee. In our deepest need—our need of Thee, our Father—of Thy love, of Thy forgiveness, of Thy grace, and of Thy comfort—we are one. We cannot live without Thy blessing. We come to Thee with our weakness, asking for strength, the strength of fellowship with Thee, and fellowship with Thy people. Help us to be as Christ to others that they may see something of His love in our lives and learn to love Him in us. In His name we pray. Amen.*

SEVENTH DAY: *Acts 1: 6-9.*

DOWN in the West Indies, the native church has arrived. In Porto Rico the last Anglo-Saxon representative, outside of educational and hospital work, has retired and the future direction of the church lies in the hands of Porto Ricans.

This young church is a missionary church. During the past year, the Rev. Angel Archilla, a graduate of the Evangelical Seminary in Porto Rico, went out to assist in an evangelistic campaign in the Republic of Costa Rica, in Central America. More than six hundred professions of faith resulted, among them many high dignitaries of state.

The report continues: "The campaign was Pauline in many of its features. The evangelist and his helpers were stoned and persecuted constantly. Opponents of the Gospel gave malicious reports to the authorities. An investigation by the Government was instituted which ultimately resulted in a public proclamation by the Governor of the province and the President of the Republic exonerating Mr. Archilla.

"Representatives of the labor organizations presented the evangelist with an especially designed medal in appreciation of his efforts in behalf of the laboring men of Costa Rica."

So the Gospel spreads—from Jerusalem outward to the uttermost parts of the world.

PRAYER: *For the vitality of Thy Church, in the Spanish West Indies, O Christ, and its responsiveness to the missionary call from other lands, we give Thee our thanks. We rejoice in all that Thou hast done, through Thy servants, and we pray that Thy favor may continue to abide upon them and upon all the institutions which are ministering to the body, and to the mind, and to the soul in those "needy and yet promising islands." Hasten the day when Christ's love shall reign in every heart, and His Spirit dominate every home. And to His name shall be all the glory. Amen.*

EIGHTH DAY: *John 8: 30-32.*

ONE would never guess that the woman quietly raking leaves on the school lawn was she. But Lucy Laney has ever given herself full-handedly to the people she would serve.

Born in slavery, hers was the advantage of a mistress who early stimulated her desire to learn. This personal interest and direction she took with her even to Atlanta University, from which she was graduated in 1873. After ten years of public school teaching, she opened in Augusta a day nursery for little daughters of colored mothers. But little sons appeared, too, and Lucy Laney gathered them all in. Those modest beginnings form today the foundations on which is built Haines Normal and Industrial Institute, of which Miss Laney is the principal.

The remarkable influence she exerts through its students, however, is only one of her contributions to the welfare of the Negro. Improved public schools, sewerage in the colored districts of the city, a new two hundred bed hospital, all testify to her public service. She has been a leader in the federation of women's clubs. She is chairman of the colored section of the Interracial Commission in Augusta.

An outstanding pioneer for her people, consecration and courage have wrought her visions for them into triumphant realities.

PRAYER: *Almighty God, for the triumphs of Thy grace in the lives of men and women, we bless Thy holy name. Especially would we thank Thee today for the marvellous way in which Thou hast led and used Lucy Laney. We rejoice in her faith and courage, her love and service. We pray that from Haines Normal and Industrial Institute there may continue to go forth leaders who will proclaim the freedom that can come and come alone through the truth as it is in Jesus Christ. For Christ's sake. Amen.*

NINTH DAY: *John 10: 9, 10.*

TREVA was a harum-scarum lass of twelve. On the Mesaba Iron Range of Minnesota she lived, in one of the dingy settlements clustered about the reddish mine pits. For twelve years the Rev. William J. Bell has ministered to those polyglot miners, who so need a friend.

A vacation Bible School first interested her; later she went to summer camp with the Girl Scouts; and a change began to show.

Then her family moved down the range to Calumet. The town had never had a religious service. On Treva's request, Bell preached its first sermon. At the close she and eight of her young friends were received as members of the church. When Bell reached Treva's beaming face, he pulled from his lapel a rosebud, and pinned it to her dress.

The religious and social work in Calumet grew amazingly. But Treva had fallen ill. Then one day a sad word came, and Bell drove seventy-five miles to conduct her funeral. The mother showed him Treva's Bible—the faded petal of his rosebud marking the place where last she read.

Now Calumet has a church, and a neighborhood house in prospect. Bell hopes to find somewhere the money to put in it a rose window—as a memorial for Treva.

PRAYER: *Our gracious Heavenly Father, our hearts are grateful for this tender and touching story of Treva. Such lives cannot die, and such service cannot end; the grave may hold the body but it cannot keep the spirit; that will abide in all the hearts and homes of those who knew her.*

Grant that the Christ-like ministry of this young life may be continued, and that many may find Him, who is the way, the truth and the life through the ministry of the church and neighborhood house at Calumet. For Thy name's sake we ask it. Amen.

TENTH DAY: *II Cor. 4: 7-10.*

HE was well on his way toward the welterweight championship. While training in Chicago for a coming fight, he happened into the Fourth Presbyterian Church one Sunday evening. At the close of the service he said to Dr. John Timothy Stone: "Parson, if what you say is true, I want some of that religion."

"What do you do, young man?" asked the minister.

"Well, guess," was the answer.

"You are either a blacksmith or a prize-fighter."

"I'm both," said Dick Ferrell. "I was a blacksmith and now I'm a knuckle-pusher."

With his conversion he left his "knuckle-pushing." Now he tramps the woods of the Northwest, his twenty-five pound pack of Bibles and Christian literature on his back. To the men in the isolated lumber camps, lonely and tempted, he carries the saving strength of Jesus Christ.

Recently he wrote: "In most of the camps immediately after supper, the poker games start. I also start services and nearly always get the biggest crowd. Last Sunday as I was stumbling along the icy trails on a fourteen mile hike, Satan said to me: 'What a fool you are, trying to make this camp.' But thank God a young man confessed Christ after the meeting."

PRAYER: *For the regenerating and transforming power of Thy Gospel, O Christ, we give Thee our heartfelt thanks. We rejoice that Thou art not only willing to save us, but to use us in saving others. We bless Thee for the ministry of Thy redeemed servants among the men in the isolated lumber camps of our land, and we pray that many of those in these lonely places, who are lost to themselves, to their loved ones, to society and to God, may find their way to Him, who came to seek and save that which was lost, through our brave and heroic missionary lumberjacks. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

ELEVENTH DAY: *John 4: 28-36.*

IT was September, vacation was over and at Mt. Vernon, Kentucky, the mountain girls were returning to Langdon Memorial School. What stories would they bring of their time at home?

Said one, "We live back over the mountain where there is no Sunday school. Soon after I got home last spring I talked with the school teacher about having a Sunday school in the school house. She said she would carry it on after I left if I would work it up. The older folks all told me I couldn't do it, but I went ahead any way. The first Sunday just my family and hers were there—twelve of us. But the rest commenced to come until there were sixty-six. And they liked it too! Some had never been to Sunday school. Now a preacher comes once a month and preaches—something they didn't have before."

Another girl started a Christian Endeavor Society in her home community and built it up to thirty-six members. All took turns in leading. The young people raised money to buy song books and lights. And the flame of Christian zeal burned brighter in the whole community.

So the students of our Christian schools, having light, pass it on to others!

PRAYER: *We are grateful, our Father, for the modern miracles of Thy grace. Truly we can do all things through Christ. Grant unto us greater faith in His power, larger willingness to receive of it, finer sensitiveness to its guiding. Let thy blessing rest upon these mountain girls who seek to share with others the gifts which have come to them. Help us all to remember that freely we have received, in order that freely we may give. And to Thy name be the glory. Amen.*

TWELFTH DAY: *Matt. 25: 37-40.*

THE Japanese storekeeper in California had given very liberally for the new church building. "But Mr. Miura," said an American friend, "you are a poor man! How can you give so much and still feed your family and run your store?" The answer came without hesitancy, "If I lose my store, that is nothing. But if my boys and girls grow up without a church and do not know Jesus Christ, I would be poor indeed."

In July, 1926, the Japanese Presbyterian ministers were assembled at Los Angeles in their annual conference. They were facing the petitions from communities yet unreached who were calling for the Gospel. They remembered also the limited funds of the Board of National Missions.

They debated and prayed; and then they voted. Their motion was to ask the eighteen Japanese churches on the Pacific Coast to reduce their help from the Board so that enough would thus be saved to establish one new church for the Japanese people each year. In 1927 by this method a new church was opened at Cortez, California; in 1928, at Hayward.

The heart of the Master must be glad. Have not these Oriental churches done what they could?

PRAYER: *We rejoice, our Father, in the present-day evidence of the inherent power of the religion of Jesus Christ. We would thank Thee especially today for the giving and the sacrificial spirit manifested in the Japanese churches on the Pacific Coast. We rejoice in Christians who believe that it is more blessed to give than to receive. May their number increase in all of our churches, to the glory of Thy Holy Name, and the extension of Thy Kingdom throughout the world. For Christ's sake. Amen.*

THIRTEENTH DAY: *Matt. 18: 10-14.*

A LITTLE girl wrote the letter, from out on the prairies of Montana. She said: "We live twenty-two miles from the nearest Sunday school. We cannot go at any time because in the winter the roads are too bad and in the summer we have to work too hard. But we can listen to the radio, so please send the literature."

And the Sunday school missionary at Havre was glad. Every Sunday, while he is out organizing new schools or visiting those already established, his wife broadcasts the Sunday school lesson, telling two Bible stories in addition. It is estimated that twenty thousand people are thus reached with the gospel message.

Most of the people who listen in live far away from the railroads and beyond the reach of any church service. Says Mr. Hellen, the missionary: "I have had the opportunity to visit many families who listen in every week. They tell us how much they enjoy our Sunday school.

"I have one letter which states they live thirty miles from a railroad and begs us to send them literature so they can follow the radio lesson each Sunday. The radio will open the way for the establishment of many Sunday schools."

PRAYER: *Accept our gratitude, our Father, for every individual, and every institution, and every invention that helps to make known to men and women and little children the good news of the Gospel of Christ; especially to those who are far away from railroads and beyond the reach of the church and the Sunday school. We thank Thee for the radio services that are making it possible for so many in isolated and lonely places to hear the Gospel Message. Follow every message with Thy Spirit, we beseech Thee, O God, and may Thy name be glorified in them all. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

FOURTEENTH DAY: *John 15: 12-15.*

IN college he was captain of the football team, president of the Y. M. C. A. and one of the Varsity debaters. On the athletic field they called him the "Mexican Devil." Born in New Mexico, he had the dark hair and eyes of the Spaniard.

After college came theological seminary. Then Carlos Cordova went back to preach to his own people in New Mexico.

One December on a missionary trip to Trementina in the mountains the automobile broke down. With one blanket he spent the night on the prairie, in a howling blizzard. The experience left him with a racking asthma, which hobbles his every effort. But with a smile at physical weakness, he ever pushes on for his Captain.

Now he is pastor of the great Mexican church at El Paso. He has the largest Mexican Sunday school and vacation Bible school in town. His basket ball teams are always carrying off the championship.

Every year he goes back to Menaul, his alma mater, the Presbyterian school which gave him his grammar and high-school education. He calls the boys to Christ and to Christian service. And the principal testifies: "When Carlos Cordova comes on the campus, the whole atmosphere of the school changes."

PRAYER: *Our God and Father, accept our praise and gratitude for the conquering power of Thy love in the lives of Thy servants. Whatever we may come to doubt, forbid we should ever doubt Thy love for us, or the power of Thy love to redeem and transform us and all mankind. Deepen in us day by day the consciousness of Thy love; and may we be open channels through which Thy love may find its way into the hearts and homes of those who know it not. And all the glory shall be to Thy Holy Name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

FIFTEENTH DAY: *Matt. 13: 31-33.*

UP the leisurely street, lined with rambling rose-covered bungalows, one comes upon the little church, at the very heart of the "valley of no regret."

Not many years ago Novato boasted of nine saloons but no church. For fifty years it had lacked an actively religious element. Then came a man and his wife, consecrated for service, and determined to build Christ into the spirit of this California town.

Quickened into new life, the people reared a parish house. Its furnishings were largely contributed by interested individuals and organizations. Today an extensive program of activities is winning the loyalty of what was once an indifferent community. Boy Scouts, dairymen, and school trustees hold their meetings in its rooms. Classes are conducted in music and nursing. A dramatic club presents home-talent plays. A men's club conducts weekly luncheon program meetings. Books line the shelves of its pleasant reading alcove. Tennis courts are open to the athletic-minded. And through it all the good news of the Gospel is made known.

"Where saloons have laid the foundation," says the Rev. Charles Christensen, pastor and director, "we shall always make slow headway. But Christ's church will win; the Kingdom is farther ahead here than ever before."

PRAYER: *Teach us, O God, that whether we eat or drink or whatsoever we do, we may do all to the glory of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. May we realize that it is not what we do, but the Spirit in which we do it that counts in the eyes of Christ; and may all of our desires and all of our service be filled with the Spirit of Him, who came not to be ministered unto but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many. In His name we ask it. Amen.*

SIXTEENTH DAY: *II Timothy 4: 6-8.*

WITH his hair cut, the paint washed off and his blanket replaced by a new coat from a missionary box, James Hayes began his Christian career. He was a member of the White Bird Band of the Nez Perces tribe.

Miss Sue McBeth was the only teacher the young lad ever had. In her school he prepared himself for the ministry. He was the only Indian pastor to hold the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

In 1897 he became pastor of the Kamiah Church in Idaho. His own people were practically a Christian tribe. But missionary zeal led him out to the Shoshones of Idaho and Nevada, the Shivwits of Utah, the Chippewas and Crows of Montana, the Umatillas of Oregon, and the Spokanes of Washington. Under James Hayes' leadership, settlements were visited and revisited with a dogged determination; churches were organized; Christian practices were instituted, and a new life begun. The outgoing circles of his influence spread far.

Ill-health in recent years did not curb his efforts. Last April he was suddenly called home. But the sorrow of friends and followers was comforted as they remembered his words: "It will be well if the Lord takes me serving Him."

PRAYER: *We rejoice, O God, that if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. For the verification of this promise in the character and service of our brother, James Hayes, we give Thee our hearty thanks. For his unquenchable desire and zeal to share this new life with all his fellow Indians, we bless and praise Thee. We recall with gratitude his love and loyalty and labor in behalf of Christ and his people. Raise up, we pray Thee, O Lord, many other such consecrated and devoted servants. For Thy name's sake we ask it. Amen.*

SEVENTEENTH DAY: *Matt. 10: 5-8.*

AN official act of the Porto Rican legislature has declared the Presbyterian hospital tax-exempt for a ten-year period. Says Senator L. Sanchez Morales, who introduced the bill: "Your institution is rendering a great service, specially to the poor. The Presbyterian Hospital is one of the greatest American institutions in our island. I am its neighbor and I know."

The American College of Surgeons now lists it as a "Grade A" hospital, a distinction attained by no other hospital in all the West Indies, and by only two others in the whole expanse of Latin America.

Less than three decades ago the Presbyterian Superintendent of Missions, in desperation at the pitiable and wide-spread suffering of the people, bought a few bottles of pills and administered them as best he could. Later medical work began with one doctor. Now a splendid building houses seventy beds. More than fifty thousand patients are treated annually in hospital and clinic. Five doctors, three internes and nine nurses are on the staff, and the Nurses' Training School enrolls forty.

But still the needs unmet summon to further advance. A new nurses' home, now building, will relieve present congestion in the hospital and double its capacity. Increasingly He who healed the sick can reveal His spirit and power in Porto Rico.

PRAYER: *For all who in obedience to Thine own command have gone forth, O Christ, to heal the sick, we give Thee our sincere thanks. We rejoice that Thou art finding Thy way through the ministry of healing, not only into hearts and homes, but into states, and into nations. We are grateful for the testimony of the Porto Rican legislature to the far-reaching and vital ministry of our hospital at San Juan. Grant, our Father, that every token of appreciation for services rendered may create in us a desire to render greater service in Thy name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

EIGHTEENTH DAY: *Luke 19: 5-10.*

THERE were three of them, perched on a high fence rail, their thin legs dangling lazily in mid-air. They waited only the belated arrival of a fourth to begin their crap game.

But suddenly around a bend in the road loomed the approaching figure of a man. The two older colored boys hastily tumbled off the fence, leaving a bewildered eleven-year-old to face the Sunday school missionary.

The youthful Albert had already decided upon the bold career of a bad man; he did not want to go to Sunday school. But the missionary insisted. Albert's mother had sought his help. The boy finally consented; and the Sunday school had won the first inning.

That day's "change of plans" proved a turning point in the lad's life. At fifteen the barefoot boy was deeply interested in the religious needs of his people. He went through Cotton Plant Academy, Arkansas, and then on to Lincoln University. On graduation there he asked for work in Georgia, supposedly the hardest field for colored workers.

Today Dr. McCoy is field superintendent of Sunday School Missions to Negroes in twelve southern states. His life and influence are inspiring countless numbers of his people to Christian service.

PRAYER: *Grant, O God, that we may never despise or discount any human life. Help us to remember that all men are made in the image of God, and that Christ died for every man. For the Sunday school missionary who won and held Albert McCoy, we give Thee thanks, and for the ministry and influence of his life among his own people, we praise Thy name. Open the hearts of Thy people to this pioneer service here in our own land. For Jesus' sake we ask it. Amen.*

NINETEENTH DAY: *Matt. 11: 28-30.*

I AM camped out here tonight. This is a wild and beautiful country, rough and rugged." So writes a Sunday school missionary from northern New Mexico.

"The folks here are home-steaders and do not have much. Several said, 'We would take you home with us, but we just haven't room for a guest.' So I'm camping out.

"On Sunday the folks in the Solo neighborhood brought their dinners to the schoolhouse and we had an all day service. I preached in the morning and organized a Sunday school with 34 members. Then we had lunch and at two o'clock I preached again. After that we visited for a time and then they asked me to preach again. I did, and when six o'clock came we knocked off. It was a day these folks will long remember. There were three conversions.

"Ice nearly an inch thick this morning. Since leaving home I have not sat at a table nor slept in a bed. And the people say I am the first Protestant missionary that has ever visited these places. My camp fire is burning low and it is cold, so I am going to crawl in my tarp and turn my face to the stars for the night."

PRAYER: *Our gracious Heavenly Father, bless, we beseech Thee, our missionaries who have to camp out and turn their face to the stars for the night. Give them the consciousness of Thy Presence, O Christ. Assure them of Thy love and guard them by Thy Spirit, as they seek to give the Bread of Life to those who hunger for it in these destitute regions of our country. In Thy name we pray. Amen.*

TWENTIETH DAY: *Acts 17: 26-28.*

JOHN of Patmos in his "Revelations" saw "a great multitude . . . out of every nation and of all tribes and peoples and tongues standing before the throne."

His vision speaks not alone of a heavenly future. Today it is being realized in our Presbyterian churches.

Within our fellowship we may now count 115 churches which employ the German language. The number of Welsh churches is almost as great. Our Hungarian work celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary this year and now 30 churches and 17 missions conduct their services in that language. Sixty Presbyterian churches and missions minister to the Slavic people and among the Italians are 90 churches and missions. Armenian, Syrian, Russian and Assyrian Presbyterians have their congregations. Among the Orientals in the United States 33 enterprises are conducted by the Board of National Missions, and among the Spanish-speaking people in this country 175 carry on their ministries; while 333 enterprises in the West Indies also use the Spanish tongue. To the American Indian more than 100 churches are bearing the "good news."

"A great multitude" indeed—"out of every nation and of all tribes and peoples and tongues"—growing in the love of each other and of God the Father of all.

PRAYER: *May our fellowship, our Father, be as wide as Thine own love. May it be as inclusive as the Gospel invitation—Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. May no one be shut out who loves Christ, and desires to serve Him. Forbid, our Father, that we should ever make the Gospel of Christ too small for the needs of all men, or that we should seek to limit it to any one branch of the human family. May we remember that we are all one in Christ Jesus. We ask it in Christ's name and for His sake. Amen.*

TWENTY-FIRST DAY: *Eph. 4: 11-15.*

DO you ever read newspaper editorials? The *Asheville* (N. C.) *Citizen,* speaking recently of the Asheville Normal School, remarked that "no more important contribution is being made to the future of the mountain country." A class of 107 young women, qualified teachers, was graduating. Referring to the monetary value of such a group, the editorial pointed out that the class "represents a contribution without cost to the taxpayers of trained teachers for 3,000 children. If a money value could be put upon such a noble gift, it could be estimated at over $100,000."

Character-trained Christian leadership is the gift of this Presbyterian mission school to the people of the southern mountains. Of its graduates, Dr. John L. Calfee, the president, speaks thus: "Our people lead lives of service in the way-back communities where the need is hard work, schools well taught, schoolhouses painted, repaired, grounds cleared and cleaned and kept up; and then teaching in the little community Sunday schools, working in the little country church. They just lose themselves in the lives of the community, and by degrees the community is lifted to higher levels and made better, for the influence of these lives that have been given to them in their humble midst."

PRAYER: *Our God and gracious Father, accept the thanks of our hearts for all the work and influence of the Asheville Normal School. Continue to guide and prosper it in the preparation of Christian leaders for the homes, the schools and the churches in the Southern Mountains. Help us, and all who teach and attend the school, to love Thee with the mind as well as the heart and the soul. For Christ's sake. Amen.*

TWENTY-SECOND DAY: *Luke 5: 10, 11, 27, 28.*

THE Princeton" skirted the jagged Alaskan shores and dropped anchor at a tiny sea-coast town. For two summers the Sunday school missionary had promoted a daily vacation Bible School at Craig. In addition it had a Sunday school and an occasional preaching service. But no church had been organized. Nor had the missionary ever heard the desire for one expressed.

But the seed sown was not lost; quietly it had been ripening for the unexpected harvest of that Sunday evening. The young people of the youthful Christian Endeavor Society came on board the boat with a petition for an established church. There were in the town nineteen adults who formerly had been members of some church. An equal number of young girls and boys had heard the gospel message through their daily vacation Bible School and were ready to confess Christ. Now was the joyful time for bringing in the sheaves. With a prayer of thanksgiving the church was organized.

The first communion held, the "Princeton" went on its evangelizing way. One doesn't navigate Alaskan waters without peril. The journeys are not all sunshine. But the heart of the missionary is gladdened when he sees the good seed bearing fruit.

PRAYER: *Give us, O God, a heart interest in all the work of our missionaries. May we know them and follow them day by day, with our prayers, our sympathy and our support. We thank Thee for the fruitfulness of the daily vacation Bible School. May it be the means of implanting life and truth in the lives of the rising generation, and thus laying the foundation for the Christian church and the Christian state. Command Thy blessing to follow all the journeys of the "Princeton" boat. Use it, O God, to make known Thy love to those on the jagged Alaskan shores, who know it not. For Christ's sake. Amen.*

TWENTY-THIRD DAY: *Phil. 1: 3-6.*

HE left the plow in the cornfield one day and came to school. For years he had vainly struggled for money enough to provide tuition and books. And each successive year brought only disappointment. Finally he could wait no longer, and he came with the little he had. He was a boy with a purpose in his soul.

That racial differences made racial prejudices puzzled him. "A boy with a black skin has no chance in the world. I wish I could change my skin just long enough to get an education. Then I could help my people."

He did not change his skin, even for the school years. But he did learn how to help his people.

Today that eager boy is an earnest man, Dr. George W. Long, principal of Coulter Memorial School, Cheraw, South Carolina. With the thought in mind of the boy he was, the heart of Dr. Long reaches out to all children of his race. His school stands as a beacon light in the community. Through religious training and industrial education, the students, nearly four hundred in number, are lifting themselves and their people toward more abundant life. With increasing faith they are working out the contribution of their race to a Christian world.

PRAYER: *Our dear Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the privilege of helping "the boy with a purpose in his soul" to help his people. We bless Thee for a Gospel based on the attitude of the heart, not the color of the skin; and for a church and a government that gives everyone an opportunity to develop and use their God-given talents. Bless Dr. Long, we pray Thee; assure him of our sympathy and prayer and support him in his work for the nation and for the Kingdom of God. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.*

TWENTY-FOURTH DAY: *Phil. 4: 10-13.*

"IT borders on the unaccountable," says a friend, "to see him at the conclusion of a business conference stow away his pencil, put on his overcoat and hat, take seven cents street car fare out of his pocket, if there happens to be a letter in sight ask whether he can mail it, bid one good day, open the door and disappear with greater briskness than exhibited by many men without physical disability."

When but a youngster of six, childish curiosity led inquisitive fingers into one of the machines of a cotton gin, and both hands were severed. On recovery his mother counselled him, "Never hide behind your hands." And he never has. Instead the call of Christian service has led him out to ever more active fruitfulness.

While at theological seminary in Chicago, he became interested in the growing Mexican colony, scattered through the slums of the city and in cheerless box-car camps. To them he brought the warmth of Christian service and the light of Christian truth.

Now Lacy Simms directs a large church with half a dozen branch centers. His triumphant life testifies to the grace of God which supplies "always all sufficiency in everything" so that he "may abound unto every good work."

PRAYER: *We take courage, our God, when we remember that Thy grace is sufficient for us. Today we give thanks for Lacy Simms, for what he is, and for what he is doing. When we are tempted to murmur because of circumstance, may the example of his life rebuke our complaint. Grant in Thy wisdom that our very limitations and weaknesses may glorify Thy power and advance Thy kingdom. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

TWENTY-FIFTH DAY: *Rom. 12: 1-5.*

THEY called her "the overall girl," for at home she had worn them more often than dresses. So it was not surprising that her clothes looked peculiar when first she came to Logan Academy in southern Utah.

She had lived forty miles from the railroad. Almost all of her three years of high school training were secured from a Chicago correspondence school. Such perseverance is not easy even to imagine. But because she could not take laboratory courses at long distance she came to Logan to finish her work.

"What did you do for church on Sunday?" ventured one inquirer, "Church!" she snorted. "There isn't any church where I live. I spend all day Sunday on horseback. In the winter that's the day we have our big rabbit round-ups." But the school has made a difference; and last fall she joined the church with sturdy and earnest purpose.

She loves her country. "You couldn't make pictures of these spaces," she said while walking down College Hill one glorious night. "You have to paint them on your mind."

On the mind of these dwellers in the far Western spaces, our schools and churches seek to paint also the figure of Him who is the Light of life to all who seek.

PRAYER: *We thank Thee, our Heavenly Father, that Jesus Christ came into the world to be the Light of life, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. May this light illumine and transform us into the likeness of Him in whom there is no darkness at all. Let no cloud of sin come between Him and us, to hide the clear shinings of His rays of truth and righteousness. Grant to us to walk in the light as He is in the light; and so we shall have fellowship one with another. Amen.*

TWENTY-SIXTH DAY: *Rom. 1: 16, 17.*

A JEWISH synagogue was to be organized near the West End Presbyterian Church of New York City. The rabbi came to the pastor, Dr. A. Edwin Keigwin, asking about the use of his church for the services. The request was granted and for two years the Presbyterian Church housed the synagogue worshippers.

When the Jewish congregation possessed their own building, the Presbyterians attended a Friday evening service and presented a beautiful silk American flag for the pulpit. One month later, the Jews returned the visit, and the Presbyterian Church was presented with a pulpit Bible.

"So many ask us," says Dr. Keigwin, "whether the Jews gave us the whole Bible or only the old Testament. There it is, from Genesis to Revelation."

Now Jews frequently attend the services of the West End Church; and they are made welcome. Twenty-five or more are members. At the close of one evening service, a young college-bred Jew came up to say: "If this is Christianity, then I am a Christian."

"All churches having Jewish neighbors should seek sympathetically to interpret Christ to them," advises Dr. Keigwin. "They will find the Jews responsive."

How well is my church meeting this opportunity?

PRAYER: *Dear Lord Jesus, we ask that the doors of our hearts and our churches may ever be open to Thee and to all who seek Thee, regardless of creed, color or condition. Give Thy blessing to every effort to win Thine own chosen people, the Jews. Forbid we should offer them any other Gospel than the Gospel of Christ or on any other terms than we offer it to all others. Help us not to forget that the Gospel of Christ is the power of God, unto salvation, to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile. In Thy name we ask it. Amen.*

TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY: *Eph. 6: 13-17.*

WHAT does a chaplain do? The Board of National Missions cooperates with those of army and navy. But let us choose one of the latter, to answer our query:

1. He is entrusted with the religious, moral and social welfare of 1,500 young Americans.
2. He is their minister, holding a Bible class and church services Sunday morning and evening.
3. He is their pastor. He interviews every new sailor and then writes his folks at home. When the sailor needs advice, it is the chaplain whom he seeks.
4. He is the educational director of a floating high school and college with a faculty of thirty-five—the ensigns on board. Both technical and non-technical courses are open to the sailors and classes are held four days a week. The chaplain also has charge of the ship's library.
5. He is the entertainment officer of the ship. Movies or special programs are on for every evening. He also cooperates in all athletics.
6. When the ship is in port, he speaks before churches, men's and women's clubs, and other organizations, and arranges all possible shore entertainment for the crew.

This is what the chaplain does. In it all he needs our prayers.

PRAYER: *We commend to Thy grace and care, our Father, the chaplains of our Army and Navy. Guide them by Thy Spirit and lead them by Thy Truth, that they may lead and direct all those to whom they minister into the way of Eternal Life. Be their friend in the hour of loneliness, their strength in the time of weariness, their courage in the day of trial, their deliverer in the moment of temptation, their comfort and assurance in all the experience of their life. In Thy name, O Christ, we ask it. Amen.*

TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY: *Acts 3: 1-6.*

"WE must have a church," said a Japanese fisherman in Monterey, California. "We do not ask it for ourselves so much. Every night when the catch is in, we tie our boats together and have our prayers and song. But it is for our children. They must not grow up without a Sunday school."

"The Board can grant very little," was the answer. "How much can you give yourselves?"

"We will give our season's catch of tuna," said the Christian Japanese. "That is worth $2,000."

The deal was made and the church was built.

But the tuna catch that year proved a failure. Its sale brought little. Did the Japanese consider their promise kept?

They said: "We promised the catch would sell for $2,000." And every cent of the deficit was made up out of the winter's sardine catch. Many a family had little but rice to live on. But the Japanese had done their share. And the Board of National Missions was glad it could help.

Its Division of Buildings and Property has assisted countless struggling congregations to rear a House of God.

PRAYER: *For the privilege, O God, of sharing in the work of the Japanese Christians, of Monterey, California, we give Thee thanks. We rejoice in their spirit of sacrifice and in their unflinching fidelity to every obligation. We thank Thee, especially for their heart-interest and heart-loyalty to their children and to Christ and His church. Give us, our Father, not only a praying interest in all such, but an increasing, supporting and giving interest. For Jesus' sake. Amen.*

TWENTY-NINTH DAY: *Matt. 9: 35-38.*

THE field we serve is our country, not to forget also the West Indies. Of course, we have allies, the other Christian denominations. Where they are meeting one need effectively, we are set free to seek another. Yet with all our efforts summed together, the need of the groups which call for Christ's message and service is compelling indeed.

1. The 5,000,000 people living in scattered communities which have no evangelical church or Sunday school.
2. The 5,000,000 adherents of non-Christian religions—particularly the Jews and Mormons.
3. The Negroes, the Indians, the immigrants of foreign birth, our neighbors in the West Indies, all with their problems of race relations and of restricted opportunities.
4. Groups, as in the Southern Mountains, of handicapped peoples, who call for Christian service in education, health, child welfare and community life.
5. The 12,000,000 American school children who are receiving no Bible instruction or training for Christian living.
6. Those Presbyterian churches, one-third of the total number, which are not strong enough to stand alone.
7. Churches of every size and type requiring help in evangelism, physical equipment, programs of work.

To all these the Board seeks "to extend the gospel of Christ in all its fullness and the service of Christ in all its implications."

PRAYER: *For the bigness and the challenge of the task of National Missions, O God, our Father, we give Thee our hearty thanks. Give us a faith to match our task, a love to meet all of its demands, a spirit to welcome every call for service and sacrifice for Christ's sake, for America's sake, and for the world's sake; and to Thy name shall be all the praise and all the glory. Amen.*

THIRTIETH DAY: *Matt. 5: 13-16.*

FOR more than a century and a quarter our church has been at its organized home mission task. And the results?

Nine out of every ten of our existing Presbyterian churches stand today as a testimony to the missionary zeal of Home Missions. They were founded by missionary money and sustained by it until they could carry themselves. This evangelistic fervor is not passing. During recent years the percentage of accessions on profession of faith in our National Missions churches has continued double that of the church at large.

The extent and variety of our existing enterprise speaks also for the value of past endeavors. In 7,000 different communities the ministries of our Board are extended. In sixty different languages and dialects its message is voiced. Through the pastor, the evangelist, the Sunday school missionary, the colporteur, the teacher, the nurse, the community worker, the chaplain, it tells the good news of Christ's love.

The most valuable results, of course, cannot be tabulated. But throughout our country there is new light in countless individual lives, a new atmosphere in thousands of communities. Through our Board we have had some share in helping America grow to the stature of that Christian America for which we pray.

PRAYER: *Grant, our Father, that the cause of National Missions may be more real to us, and have a larger place in our thought, in our prayers, and in our giving, as a result of this month of study and meditation. May we realize, as never before, that National Missions is the response of our Church to the command of Jesus Christ, to give the Gospel of Christ in all of its fulness, and the service of Christ in all of its implications. Forbid, our Father, that any of us should fail to hear this command, or refuse to obey it. We ask it all in Thy name, O Christ. Amen.*

HOW CAN I HELP?

1. I can pray daily for my country, for those in it who need the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for my National Missionaries and their great work. (The Year Book of Prayer gives their names and fields.)

2. I can inform myself intelligently on the neglected and needy groups of my town, county, and state, and find out what National Missions is doing or can do for them.

3. I can become a reliable "information bureau" on what the Presbyterian Church is doing through its Board of National Missions to make America Christian.

4. I can take a share in the financial support of some National Mission field or of some missionary under our Board.

5. I can, if I am young, give my life to make my country more Christian, as minister, teacher, Sunday school missionary, nurse, doctor, community worker; if older, I can help as time and strength permit to meet the National Missions needs at my door.

The Board solicits the interest, prayers, and gifts of churches, Sunday schools, missionary organizations, and individuals. May we count on you?

Contributions may be made for the general work or for the support of a particular missionary or project.

Remember the Board with a legacy in your will. Annuity bonds are issued at liberal rates of interest.

E. Graham Wilson, *Treasurer.*

Price, five cents

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